Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating obesity, the method comprising the step of administering to an obese patient or a patient at risk of becoming obese a therapeutically effective amount of a compound that is a neurotensin receptor ligand.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotensin-1 receptor ligand.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotensin-2 receptor ligand.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotensin-3 receptor ligand.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the ligand is an agonist.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the ligand is an antagonist.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotensin-1 receptor agonist.

8. A method of treating obesity, the method comprising the step of administering to an obese patient or a patient at risk of becoming obese a therapeutically effective amount of a compound that is a selective neurotensin-1 receptor agonist.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a) a compound that is a neurotensin receptor ligand; and

b) a second compound useful for the treatment of obesity, diabetes, sexual dysfunction, atherosclerosis, insulin resistance, impaired glucose tolerance, hypercholesterolemia or hypertrigylceridemia.

10. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotensin-1 receptor agonist.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the second compound is a β_3-adrenergic receptor agonist, a cholecystokinin-A agonist, a monoamine reuptake inhibitor, a sympathomimetic agent, a serotoninergic agent, a dopamine agonist, a melanocyte-stimulating hormone receptor agonist or mimetic, a melanocyte-stimulating hormone receptor analog, a cannabinoid receptor antagonist, a melanin concentrating hormone antagonist, leptin, a leptin analog, a leptin receptor agonist, a galanin antagonist, a bombesin agonist, a neuropeptide-Y antagonist, a thyromimetic agent, dehydroepiandrosterone or an analog thereof, a glucocorticoid receptor agonist or antagonist, an orexin receptor antagonist, a urocortin binding protein antagonist, a glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist, or a ciliary neurotrophic factor.

12. A kit that comprises:

a) a first pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that is a neurotensin receptor ligand;

b) a second pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound that is useful for the treatment of obesity, diabetes, sexual dysfunction, atherosclerosis, insulin resistance, impaired glucose tolerance, hypercholesterolemia or hypertrigylceridemia; and

c) a container for the first and second compositions.

13. The kit of claim 12 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotensin-1 receptor agonist.

14. The kit of claim 12 wherein the second pharmaceutical composition comprises a compound that is a β_3-adrenergic receptor agonist, a cholecystokinin-A agonist, a monoamine reuptake inhibitor, a sympathomimetic agent, a serotoninergic agent, a dopamine agonist, a melanocyte-stimulating hormone receptor agonist or mimetic, a melanocyte-stimulating hormone receptor analog, a cannabinoid receptor antagonist, a melanin concentrating hormone antagonist, leptin, a leptin analog, a leptin receptor agonist, a galanin antagonist, a bombesin agonist, a neuropeptide-Y antagonist, a thyromimetic agent, dehydroepiandrosterone or an analog thereof, a glucocorticoid receptor agonist or antagonist, an orexin receptor antagonist, a urocortin binding protein antagonist, a glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist, or a ciliary neurotrophic factor.

15. A method of treating diabetes, sexual dysfunction, atherosclerosis, insulin resistance, impaired glucose tolerance, hypercholesterolemia or hypertrigylceridemia, the method comprising the step of administering to a patient having or at risk of having, diabetes, sexual dysfunction, atherosclerosis, insulin resistance, impaired glucose tolerance, hypercholesterolemia or hypertrigylceridemia a therapeutically effective amount of a neurotensin receptor ligand.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the neurotensin receptor ligand is a neurotension-1 receptor ligand.